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these years is the history of England." The author, however, has kept to the path of economic history, and has apportioned his space fairly as between domestic and international economic affairs.

EMORY R. JOHNSON.

Turner, John K. *Barbarous Mexico*. Pp. 340. Price, \$1.50. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Co., 1911

It is exceedingly difficult to pass judgment on this book without entering with considerable detail into the social and political development of Mexico during the last three decades. The work occupies about the same relation to the conditions of social progress in Mexico as Lawson's book on "Frenzied Finance" toward the history of American economic and financial growth. If it were possible to make a composite book of the works of Creelman, Godoy and Turner we would approach an accurate estimate of the present situation. Unfortunately for Mexico, Mr. Turner found himself compelled to write a series of Mexican articles which would not only arouse some interest on the part of those who were studying Latin-American affairs, but which would also attract the attention of the general public. He has, therefore, done for Mexican social conditions what Lawson did for American finance, namely, to throw the high-lights on the shortcomings of the present situation. In so doing he has created a distinctly false impression as to the present condition in Mexico. It would be useless to enter into a controversy with the author with reference to the accuracy of his facts. Even if true, the impression which he creates in the reader's mind would be none the less false. He fails to place his descriptions in their proper settings or perspective.

The most superficial study of Mexican history and present conditions must convince one that in a country in which so large a percentage of the population is illiterate, with a relatively low standard of living, it is physically impossible for the government to prevent abuses on the large landed estates in which the agricultural laborer finds himself completely at the mercy of the land owner, or, to be more correct, at the mercy of superintendents and managers. It would require an administrative organization far more elaborate than any American or European country has as yet developed in order adequately to protect the agricultural laborers against the oppressive methods of the less enlightened employers.

No one will deny that Mexico has many and exceedingly difficult problems to deal with, but it is unfortunate here in the United States, where there still prevails such widespread ignorance concerning the real conditions existing in Mexico, that works purporting to be a fair picture should be of so misleading a character.

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